

(2) to adopt, alter, and use a corporate seal;  
 (3) to choose officers, managers, and agents as the business of the corporation may require;

(4) to charge and collect membership dues;  
 (5) to adopt, amend, apply, and alter a constitution and bylaws not inconsistent with the laws of the United States of America or any State in which the corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;

(6) to contract and be contracted with;

(7) to take and hold by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise any property real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the objects of the corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State, (a) governing the amount or kind of real and personal property which may be held by, or, (b) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of real and personal property by, a corporation operating in such State;

(8) to transfer, lease, or convey real or personal property;

(9) to borrow money for the purposes of the corporation and issue bonds or other evidences of indebtedness therefor and secure the same by mortgage or pledge subject to applicable Federal or State laws; and

(10) to do any and all acts necessary and proper to carry out the purposes of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-642, § 4, Aug. 14, 1958, 72 Stat. 598.)

**§ 795. Principal office; territorial scope of activities; agent for service of process**

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Washington, District of Columbia, or in such other place as may later be determined by the board of directors but the activities of the corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various Territories and possessions of the United States.

(b) The corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service and process for the corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent or mailed to the business address of such agent shall be deemed as service to or notice on the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-642, § 5, Aug. 14, 1958, 72 Stat. 598.)

**§ 796. Membership**

**(a) Eligibility**

Any person who has been awarded the Medal of Honor is eligible for membership in the society.

**(b) Honorary memberships**

Honorary memberships shall not be granted.

**(c) Voting rights**

Each member of the corporation shall have the right to one vote either in person or by proxy on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-642, § 6, Aug. 14, 1958, 72 Stat. 599.)

**§ 797. Board of directors**

**(a) Composition of initial board**

The governing body of the corporation is its board of directors which during the year 1958 will comprise the following: President, David M. Shoup; executive vice president, Joel T. Boone; secretary-treasurer, Samuel I. Parker; first regional vice president, Nicholas Oresko; second regional vice president, Luther Skaggs; third regional vice president, Rufus G. Herring; fourth regional vice president, Nathan Gordon; fifth regional vice president, Joseph J. McCarthy; sixth regional vice president, Pierpont M. Hamilton; who currently hold such offices in the Congressional Medal of Honor Society of the United States of America.

**(b) Composition of subsequent boards; tenure**

Thereafter the board of directors of the corporation shall consist of such number (not less than nine), shall be elected in such manner (including the filling of vacancies) and shall serve their terms as may be prescribed in the bylaws of the corporation.

**(c) Powers; voting rights; meetings; chairman**

The board of directors may exercise, or provide for the exercise of, the powers herein granted to the corporation, and each member of the board shall have one vote upon all matters determined, except that if the offices of secretary and treasurer are combined and are held by one person, he shall have only one vote as a member of the board of directors. The board shall meet at least annually. The president of the corporation shall act as chairman of the board.

(Pub. L. 85-642, § 7, Aug. 14, 1958, 72 Stat. 599.)

**§ 798. Officers**

**(a) Composition**

The officers of the corporation shall consist of a president, executive vice president, secretary, treasurer, and six regional vice presidents as may be provided in the bylaws. The office of secretary may be combined with the office of treasurer and the combined offices may be held by one person.

**(b) Powers**

The officers shall have such powers consistent with this charter, as may be determined by the bylaws.

**(c) Election; tenure; duties**

The officers of the corporation shall be elected in such manner and have such terms and with such duties as may be prescribed in the bylaws of the corporation.

(Pub. L. 85-642, § 8, Aug. 14, 1958, 72 Stat. 599.)

**§ 799. Distribution of income or assets to members; loans**

(a) No part of the income or assets of the corporation shall inure to any member, officer, or director as such, or be distributed to any of them during the life of the corporation or upon its dissolution or final liquidation, nor shall any member or private individual be liable for the obligations of the corporation. Nothing in this section, however, shall be construed to prevent—